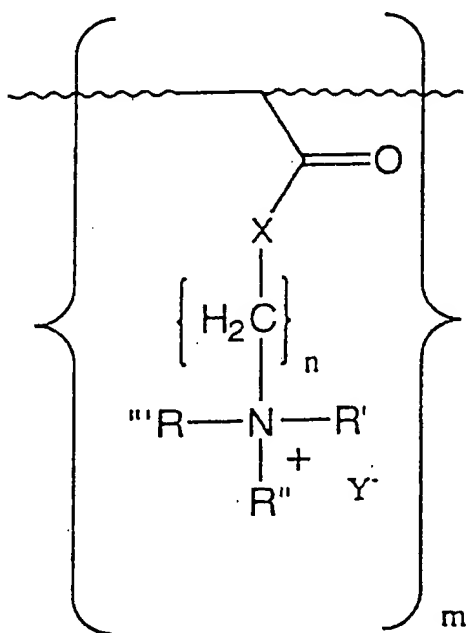


Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing, said wound dressing being configured adapted to cover and contact a wound, said wound dressing comprising a cationic aqueous hydrogel that comprises an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁ to C₁₆ alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y⁻ is an acceptable anionic counterion to the N⁺ of the quaternary amine and m is an integer greater than 50,000,

wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 15 to about 95 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

57. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, phenyl, tolyl, and benzyl.

58. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein R', R'' are methyl and R''' is benzyl.

59. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein R', R'' and R''' are methyl.

60. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein X is O.

61. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein X is NH.

62. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein Y⁻ is selected from the group consisting of Cl⁻, Br⁻, HSO₄⁻, and CH₃SO₄⁻.

63. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein Y⁻ is Cl⁻.

64. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein n is 2.

65. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein n is 3.

66. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of

acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate, acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloxyethyldimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride, and combinations thereof.

67. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, further comprising a support structure affixed to said hydrogel.

68. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 67, wherein said support structure includes a web or fibril material.

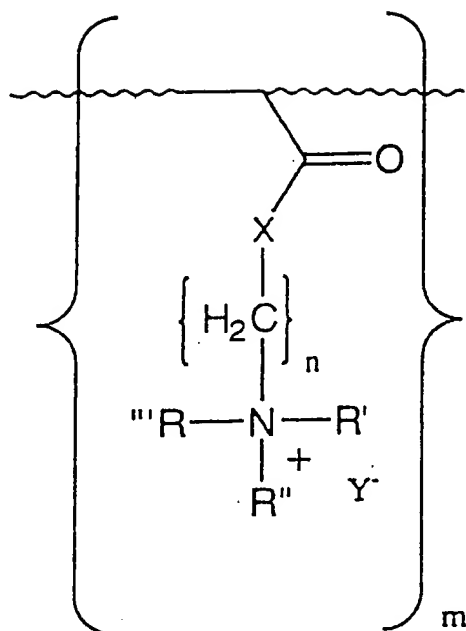
69. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 67, wherein said support structure includes an impermeable backing.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 61 to about 90 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

72. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 65 to about 75 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

73. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing adapted to cover and contact a wound, said wound dressing comprising a support structure in communication with a cationic aqueous hydrogel that comprises from about 15 to about 95 percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R' , R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 to C_8 alkyl, phenyl, tolyl, and benzyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y^- is selected from the group consisting of Cl^- , Br^- , HSO_4^- , and $CH_3SO_4^-$ and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

74. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein R' , R'' are methyl and R''' is benzyl.

75. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein R' , R'' and R''' are methyl.

76. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein X is O.

77. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein X is NH.

78. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein Y is Cl⁻.

79. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 2.

80. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 3.

81. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate, acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloxyethyldimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride, and combinations thereof.

82. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said support structure is affixed to said hydrogel.

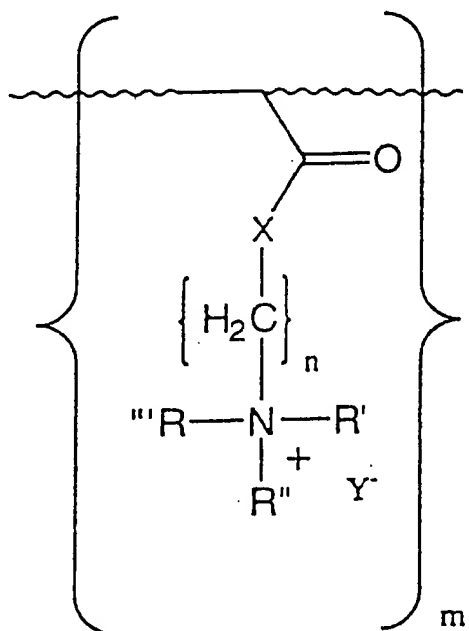
83. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 82, wherein said support structure includes a web or fibril material.

84. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 82, wherein said support structure includes an impermeable backing.

85. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 61 to about 90 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

86. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 65 to about 75 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

87. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising a support structure and a cationic aqueous hydrogel affixed to said support structure and adapted to cover a wound, said hydrogel comprising from about 61 to about 90 percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, phenyl, tolyl, and benzyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y⁻ is selected from the group consisting of Cl⁻, Br⁻, HSO₄⁻, and CH₃SO₄⁻ and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

88. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein X is O.

89. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein X is NH.

90. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 65 to about 75 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

91. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 2.

92. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 3.

93. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate, acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride, and combinations thereof.